

A2

2. The exhaust gas from the condenser 2 flows into a vacuum section by the aid of a steam ejector E1 which is reducing a pressure of a purifying section. The gas usually contains the easily polymerizable compound which is not condensed through the condenser 2 and other noncondensing gases. The gas and steam through the steam ejector E1 are condensed in a barometric condenser 3 by contacting the gas with a cooling liquid directly. The resulting condensate is withdrawn into an ejector seal tank 6 and a remaining gas is sucked into the second steam ejector E2. The gas and steam from the second steam ejector E2 are condensed through a surface condenser 4 and the resulting condensate is withdrawn into the ejector seal tank 6 and the remaining gas is sucked into the third steam ejector E3. In the case of a surface condenser, the gas is condensed without direct contact with a cooling water. The gas from the third ejector E3 is condensed through a surface condenser 5 attached at the downstream side of the third ejector E3. Generally, both the resulting condensate and a remaining gas are liquid-sealed by the ejector seal tank 6. In some processes, the gas is not liquid-sealed at a final stage.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice to the subject matter thereof.*

*Please add new claims 19 to 28 as follows:*

A3

19. (New) A process for inhibiting a polymerization in a vacuum section of an easily polymerizable compound purification system, comprising the step of permitting a gas containing an easily polymerizable compound to flow into a gas and liquid contact chamber from a purifying section; and, supplying a liquid containing a polymerization inhibitor to the gas and liquid contact chamber.

20. (New) The process according to claim 19, wherein the vacuum section comprises at least one gas and liquid contact chamber, and supplying the liquid containing the polymerization inhibitor to the first gas and liquid contact chamber.